

Eng. Poetry vol 27

ODE

TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
Sir. R O B E R T W A L P O L E,
K N I G H T of the most Noble Order of the Garter.
ON HIS
I N S T A L L A T I O N.

By Mr. B E C K I N G H A M.

— *Primo avulso non deficit alter*
Aureus — VIRGIL.

1725



L O N D O N:

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TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

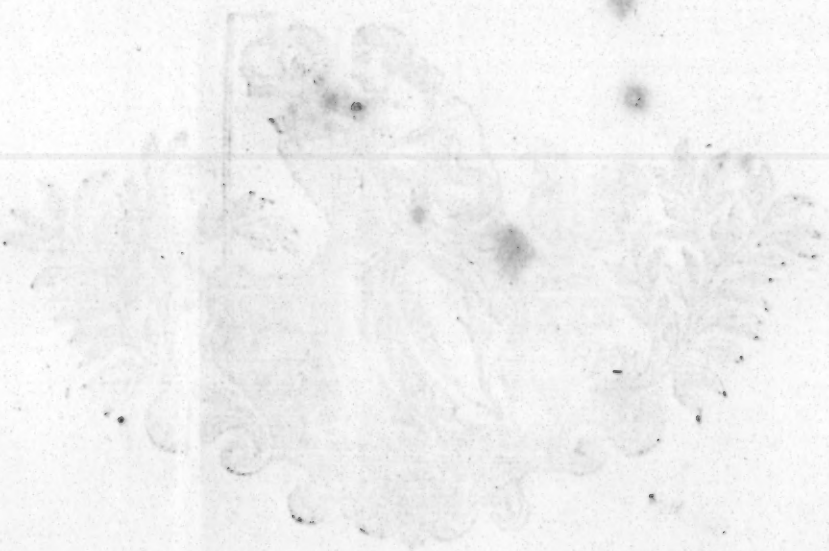
ST. ROBERT WALPOLE

Knights of the most Noble Order of the Garter

ON HIS

INSTALLATION

BY MR. BECKINGHAM



AND

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said Knights of the Garter have hereunto set their hands and seals at the City of London, the 10th day of June, 1763.

Witness the hands of the said Knights of the Garter, and the Seal of the said Order, at the City of London, the 10th day of June, 1763.

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Sir ROBERT WALPOLE.



HENCE, WINDSOR, this diffusive Grace

That brightens thy majestick Frame,

What Virtues does thy Dome embrace,

Or what new Garter'd Guest proclaim?

Why all this Blaze of Joy thro' *Edward's* Fane,

As were its Founder King install'd again?

The

2.

The noble Dead, distinguish'd Band,
 Whose Spirits scorn'd a scanty Sphere
 Of Honours in their Native Land,
 To be inroll'd with Monarchs here,
 Start from the Sleep of Years in bright Array,
 And join the great Procession of the Day.

3.

Their Eyes with Rapture travel o'er
 The sacred Stalls they once possess;
 Th' illustrious Banners once they bore
 With fresh Ambition feed their Breast;
 Their Thoughts once more terrestrial Wreaths pursue,
 And burn t'associate with Renown anew.

4.

Debarr'd, alas, the fond Desire
 Exterior Honours to resume,
 They next with virtuous Zeal inquire
 What new Successors fill their Room;
 If Souls by Patriot Toils, or Prowess, known,
 And warm'd by great Examples like their own.

5.

When strait their Jealousies subside,
 Their own Exploits lose half their Boast,
 The sacred Choir reveals its Pride,
 And WALPOLE swells the Garter'd Host :
 The echoing Roofs th' applauding Concourse join,
 While He and Honours on each other shine.

6.

Remark, th' astonish'd *Manes* cry,
 That Column of the *British* State,
 Well is he plac'd in Empire's Eye,
 Whose Counsels prop an Empire's Weight ;
 Well does the Nation's universal Voice
 Greet with a Peal of Joy the Sovereign's Choice.

7.

Yet see, not all the various Blaze
 His Order's sacred Vestments dart,
 Not all the Pride-alarmsing Rays
 The Splendors of the Day impart,
 Can to one feeble Passion Entrance find,
 Or from its modest Basis lift his Mind.

8.

In humble Merit truly great,
 Reward seems Satire on his Views,
 He gives his Labours to the State,
 And Good for Good alone pursues:
 The Trophies and the Plumes which others share,
 Enough for him, that he deserves to wear.

9.

How strong, how delicate, the Plan,
 On which true Merit thus proceeds,
 Where honest Nature prompts the Man,
 And Virtue only Virtue feeds!
 Ambition's Baits his sure Neglect bemoan;
 His Thoughts Dominions, and his Heart a Throne.

10.

Yet Virtue cannot always fly
 The rich Returns of publick Praise,
 The noblest Natures must comply
 To wear the Wreaths their Actions raise:
 His Looks a graceful Resignation tell:
 He takes the Glories he has earn'd so well.

11.

What tho' by *Edward's* first Decree
 The Garter, in its earliest Fame,
 Engirt alone the Martial Knee,
 Alone the Sword of Conquests claim,
 When Worthies came from Fight with dented Shield,
 Red with the Triumphs of a *Cressy's* Field.

12.

Is less the Statesman's Title there,
 Whose Talents are a Kingdom's Guard,
 Whose Virtues make its Peace their Care,
 Or Genius does its Dangers ward,
 Whose Counsels Aid to Martial Fire afford,
 And point a wholesome Conduct to the Sword?

13.

Britons, recount the boasted Deeds
 That swell your Ancestors Renown,
 Tell by whose Arms an Empire bleeds,
 And Kings in Homage held their Crown:
 What were the utmost Trophies they could gain,
 But such, as give a thinking Victor Pain?

14.

By Means less rough, the Statesman steers;
 The Chief just panting for the Plain,
 His salutary Plans reveres,
 And turns his Ensigns back again;
 The Arts of soft Humanity his Guide;
 The bloodless Triumph is a WALPOLE'S Pride.

15.

But see, Great WALPOLE not alone
 Enjoys the Honours of the Day,
 Yon blooming Fav'rite of the Throne
 His Partner in the Pomp survey!
 Inducement sweet, and potent to prolong
 A Scene of Virtue he begins so young!

16.

When vernal Worth, like his, we view,
 Bright dawning in its Morning Sky,
 We, to the future Heroe true,
 Behold him with a Parent's Eye,
 To early Virtue early Honours pay,
 And burn to see him in his Noon-Tide Day.

As

17.

As when the rich *Carnation* blows,
 The Florist with a tender Hand
 His Darling nurtures as it grows,
 The Glory of his painted Land;
 So the fond Nations use their utmost Care
 To mould their Heroes as they blossom fair.

18.

The *Manes* thus. Now RICHMOND, hear
 Thy Country in her Poet's Voice;
 May once the grateful Day appear
 When thou shalt shine thy Sov'reign's Choice,
 Or great in Arms a Lawrel'd Champion crown'd,
 Or in the greater Arts of Peace renown'd!

19.

May future Kings from BRUNSWICK learn
 By this Day's Pattern to reward!
 Monarchs, like BRUNSWICK, who discern,
 Can never want an Empire's Guard,
 With WALPOLE's Beams while future Patriots shine,
 And future Youth give Promises like thine.

The E N D.

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